

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 044830

P R 081728Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7012
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03865

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, EG, GW
SUBJ: FRG ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

REF: BONN 03780

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION MARCH 8 WITH ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER BAHR, HE INDICATED HE HAD NO RECENT INFORMATION CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS IN EGYPT.

2. BAHR SAID HE STILL HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY WAS NOT OPERATING EFFICIENTLY. THE FRG PLANS BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE EGYPTIANS IN MAY, AND THE GERMANS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A REVIEW OF PROJECTS. HE SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF NEW MONEY. HE NOTED THE EGYPTIANS HAD ALREADY DRAWN DOWN THE DM 130 MILLION (\$50 MILLION), WHICH WAS COMMITTED LAST YEAR. SINCE THE EGYPTIANS ARE SHORT OF CASH, HE SAID THEY MAKE HASTE TO SPEND ANY MONEY THEY GET AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. I MENTIONED THE REPORTS THAT SADAT WOULD BE VISITING THE FRG LATER THIS MONTH. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, BAHR SEEMED ONLY VAGUELY AWARE THAT THIS VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE AND DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION
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THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS SPENDING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME

PREPARING FOR IT BEFOREHAND. IT MAY, HOWEVER, BE
THAT THE VISIT IS BEING INITIALLY HANDLED IN OTHER
MINISTRIES OR BY THE CHANCELLERY ITSELF, AND BAHR
MIGHT NOT BE INTIMATELY INVOLVED AT THIS STAGE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN03865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-0576
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760385/aaaacxix.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BONN 3780
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, EG, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006